



Alvarado Canyon Road Bridge Dedicated



Why drive the freeway when you can take the bridge? People driving between the communities of Grantville and Allied Gardens now have that option with the opening of the Alvarado Canyon Road Bridge. The bridge connects Alvarado Canyon Road to Adobe Falls Road off of Waring Road and runs parallel to I-8. By opening the bridge to public use, it will alleviate nearly 8,000 vehicles daily that use I-8 to drive between the

communities of Allied Gardens and Grantville near Mission Gorge Road. On June 12th Leon Williams, chair of the Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) and I along with 50 community leaders from throughout the area dedicated the completion of the bridge, which is part of the Mission Valley East Trolley Extension Project.



It was a rare opportunity to ride in a beautiful 1929 Durant automobile owned by Lance Haynes as we led a parade of cars honking their horns as they celebrated being the first to drive across the bridge. And the best part is still to come. Next month we'll put the finishing touch on when decorative lights are installed as requested by the community.

My thanks to the many folks who served on the PAC that advised MTDB regarding the bridge design including community leaders Betty Torre, John Peterson, Jan Nanning, John Pilch, Bill Brenza, Dan Rubin, Richard Drewery, Bill Wilson, Matt Adams, Joe Nye, Eric Sands, Michelle Nash-Hoff and Keith Turnham.

Neighborhood E-Watch Keeps You Informed

The City of San Diego's Neighborhood eWatch provides information about crime incidents in the City of San Diego to the public for free via the Internet and is updated every 24 hours. The web site address is: <http://ewatch.sandiego.gov>.

On Target

The communities surrounding the College Grove Shopping Center were thrilled to learn that

Target will soon be opening where the Home Base store used to be. This shopping center has undergone an amazing transformation thanks to redevelopment - with more still to come. It is an example of how redevelopment brings renewal and vitality in terms of jobs, more business, convenience, improved or new infrastructure (such as roads, street lights, medians) and community pride. Drive by College Grove Shopping Center and see the changes taking place! The new Target store is expected to open in November.

Budget Impacts

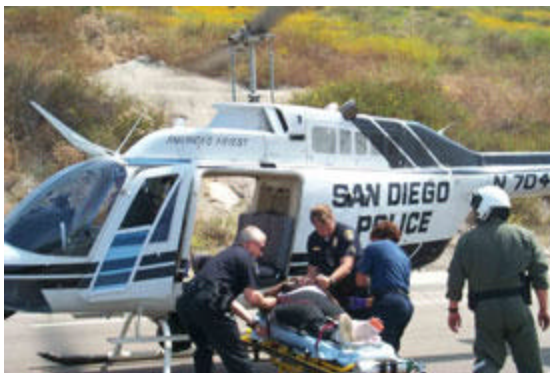
The City of San Diego was forced to make \$30 million in cuts to balance the budget making for few easy solutions. The City Council has been going through the budget process for the last several weeks as we must balance the budget by the end of the month. We're facing tough choices. We have reviewed budgets for most of the departments including Park and Recreation (which will have a second hearing on Monday), Development Services, Fire & Rescue, and the Police Department. On Monday we'll review budgets for Financial Management, Neighborhood Code Compliance, Real Estate Assets and Special Projects among others.

Many things about this year's budget are not good. Faced with continued cuts from Sacramento, the City Manager recommended a budget that included many increases in fees for things I'm simply not in favor of. The thought of closing public pools - especially in neighborhoods that use them extensively is simply not right. Additionally, I voted against increasing the parking meter rates and am strongly against the extended enforcement time from 6pm to 8pm.

The City Manager's proposed [budget is available on-line - click to view](#). To see the Council's [budget review schedule, click this link](#).

I'd like to know what you think about the City's budget. [Please click on this link to email me your comments about the City's Budget](#).

Coming To the Rescue



A practice rescue was scheduled but a real emergency happened before they could rehearse at Mission Trails Regional Park. Thanks to expert teamwork among the police officers, fire fighters and park rangers the emergency rescue on May 31 was faster and safer due to a new plan. A woman fell while hiking, broke her ankle and needed to be airlifted from Cowles Mountain to a waiting ambulance. I happened to be driving from one community event to another and witnessed the closing of traffic on Navajo Road so that the helicopter could land. The entire rescue took only 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Here is how the new plan works. Once they are notified, the Police Department, Fire Department and Park Rangers respond to the same location and communicate using the same radio frequency. They create a staging area for personnel and a landing area for helicopters by closing the westbound lanes of Navajo Road between Cowles Mountain Boulevard and Golfcrest Drive. There are three equally spaced emergency staging areas on Cowles Mountain. Each area can accommodate the San Diego Police Department's A.B.L.E. helicopters and the



areas on Cowles Mountain. Each area can accommodate the San Diego Police Department's A.B.L.E. helicopters and the Sheriff's Department A.S.T.R.E.A. helicopters. These areas were established thanks to the fast and unanimous approvals of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizen's Advisory Board and The Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force. Emergency personnel and their equipment are airlifted to the emergency staging area above the victim. The victim is then carried to the next lowest staging area and airlifted down to Navajo Road for transfer to an ambulance or medical Helicopter. Congratulations to Sgt Dale Shockley and all involved in the rescue for a job well done!

New Tot Lot for Colina Del Sol

I'm working toward my goal to create additional parks and improve existing parks in City Heights and the SDSU College/Rolando areas. This area of our City is so park deficient and requires creativity with property being so scarce and expensive. We're one step closer with major improvements to the Colina Del Sol Recreation Center's Tot Lot. I allocated funds to replace the outdated, decades old play equipment and make it ADA accessible. This includes the installation of new slides, two new swing sets and a large play structure or jungle gym. We have also added a new picnic table with three new benches that will be very popular with park users. Community leaders will be invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony next month.

Restructuring the Development Services Department

Whether you are a resident remodeling your home or a developer building on property, Development Services is the department you go to for permits. It can be a confusing process for even the most seasoned of contractors and builders. With the current budget crisis, it is imperative that we seek creative, cost-cutting ways to make city government more efficient. That philosophy and the comments of many led me to request a comprehensive external audit for the Development Services Department. The City Council approved that and also agreed to form an ad hoc budget committee to review the Development Services Department. Currently Mayor Murphy is asking Councilmembers to serve on the committee which is expected to be in place this summer and complete its review by the end of the year.

You can view the memo I sent to the Mayor and City Council - [the proposal they adopted by clicking on this link](#).

Many other Priorities

There's many priorities and issues I'm involved with each and everyday - to get an idea of some of the many things we're working on for you, visit the [Priorities Page](#) on my website to learn more.
